IN THE CLAIMS:

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Please cancel Claims 1 through 16, inclusive, without prejudice, and add the following new claims:

Claim 17. (New) A pet identification method comprising;

forming a flexible pad having a window;

covering said window with flexible plastic material having an interior side and exterior side;

coating said interior side with an indelible ink, said interior coated with indelible ink being away from said exterior side to be applied to a pet's nose;

forming a registration form on recording stock having a shape and size equal to said flexible pad;

covering said window with said registration form so that said registration form is spaced from and aligned with said interior side coated with indelible ink;

pressing said exterior side of said flexible plastic material against a pet's nose until said interior side with said indelible ink firmly abuts said registration form producing a clear print of said pet's nose;

photographing said pet;

collecting identifying data about said pet;

entering said noseprint, said photograph and data into a database;

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whereby a lost pet can be accurately and quickly identified by retrieving and comparing a lost pet's noseprint with noseprints in said database and related data.

Claim 18. (New) The method according to Claim 17 in which said pet is a dog.

Claim 19. (New) The method according to Claim 17 including printing and identification card for an owner.

Claim 20. (New) The method according to Claim 18 in which said printed identification card is printed with a description of the animal, color, breed, weight, sex, name of owner, photograph of animal, identification number, and noseprint.

Claim 21. (New) The method according to Claim 17 including searching said database; said search through said database comprising; pattern matching a lost pet's noseprint with a noseprint in said database.

Claim 22. (New) The method according to Claim 21 including producing lost pet notices regarding whether a match is found in said database; transmitting said notices to locations where a lost pet may be kept.

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Claim 23. (New) The method according to Claim 17 including receiving a form with information regarding a lost pet; entering data regarding said lost pet into said database system; searching said database for data corresponding to information on said form; producing lost pet notices from the data found in the database search; transmitting the lost pet notices to locations where a lost pet may be found.

Claim 24. (New) The method according to Claim 23 including searching said database for a corresponding pet identification and owner name.

Claim 25. (New) The method according to Claim 17 in which said printable material comprises a registration form having an area for said noseprint and areas for entering data about said pet.

Claim 26. (New) A pet identification system comprising;

a rectangular flexible pad having a rectangular window;

a flexible plastic material having an interior side and exterior side attached to said flexible pad and covering said window;

a coating of ink on said interior side of said flexible plastic window;

a registration form covering such window aligned with and on an opposite side of said flexible pad from said interior side of said flexible plastic material having said ink;

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whereby when said exterior side of said flexible plastic window is firmly pressed on a pet's nose an accurate copy of the pet's nose is imprinted on said registration form.

Claim 27. (New) The system according to Claim 26 in which said ink is an indelible ink.

Claim 28. (New) The system according to Claim 27 in which said registration form includes data recording areas for recording identifying data about said pet.

Claim 29. (New) The system according to Claim 28 including a database; said noseprint and said identifying data about said pet being stored in said database.

Claim 30. (New) The system according to Claim 29 in which said database includes a program for comparing a stored noseprint and identifying data with a noseprint and identifying data of a lost pet; whereby a lost pet can be quickly and accurately identified.

31. (New) A pet identification method comprising;
taking a closeup photograph of a pet's nose to acquire a noseprint, said nose photograph being taken by a high-magnification camera having a magnification of at least 3X;
taking a photograph of said pet;
collecting identifying data about said pet on a database

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registration form;

storing said noseprint, said photograph and registration data in a central database;

assigning an identification number to said pet;

providing a search engine for searching said central database to retrieve registration data and a noseprint;

providing a comparison program for comparing said registration data and noseprint in said central database with data and a noseprint received about a lost pet;

connecting said central database to a network to receive data and a noseprint about a lost pet and transmitting the result of said comparison program;

whereby a lost pet can be identified by retrieving data or said noseprint from said database.

32. (New) A pet identification method according to Claim 31 in which said high-magnification camera has a focus system of a pair of light beams that are in correct focus when said two beams come together as a single beam.

33. (New) A pet identification method according to Claim 31 in which said magnification is up to 5X.

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